

STATE SENATOR • IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN • 3RD DISTRICT

Clark-Coleman Press Release

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SEN. CLARK-COLEMAN: IT'S TIME TO RETURN MEAP OVERSIGHT TO DEPT. OF EDUCATION

LANSING- Calling it a move that was long overdue, State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) announced today that she is introducing a package of bills which will transfer administration of the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) back to the Department of Education. Sen. Clark-Coleman's bill package, SB 729-732, would reverse the decision of former Governor John Engler to transfer oversight of the MEAP testing program to the Department of Treasury.

"This move will streamline the process by making the Department of Education, which is ultimately responsible for making sure our schools are meeting state and federal standards, responsible for MEAP testing," Sen. Clark-Coleman said. "By transferring management back to the appropriate department, we expect to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and reduce delays in the release of test score results."

Currently, three state departments (Treasury, Education and DMB) are involved, to various degrees, in the oversight of MEAP testing. This added bureaucracy has led to long delays in the release of test score results for students taking the exam during the 2002-03 academic year. State Legislators have voiced concerns that it has been difficult to get problems with the program corrected as the various departments involved continuously shift blame from one to another.

“The MEAP has become too important to parents, students and our school districts to allow the problems within the program to go uncorrected,” Sen. Clark-Coleman said. “It’s time to acknowledge that the Department of Treasury was not ideally suited for this task and return responsibility for educational testing back to the Department of Education.”

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